

REMARKS

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically speaking, Claim 1 has been amended to state that the cosmetic product comprises a solvent containing at least one of a volatile oil and a volatile organic solvent. Newly presented Claims 10-12 are directed to preferred embodiments of the present invention. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sunamoto et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection and urge reconsideration in light of the following comments.

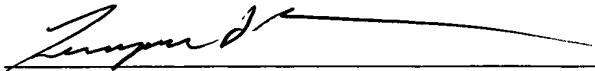
The presently claimed invention is directed to a cosmetic product comprising 99.999-50 wt.% of cosmetic components, a solvent containing at least one of a volatile oil and a volatile organic solvent, and 0.001-50 wt.% of a specified pullulan-cholesterol derivative.

As stated previously, the cosmetic product of the instant invention has a high moisture-retaining ability, facilitates lamella formation, is high in film-forming ability and has superior stabilization and low oily feel because of the incorporation of the inventive pullulan-cholesterol derivative. This makes the cosmetic product of the present invention especially useful in improving skin or hair conditions caused by drying, such as rough skin and defective luster, and provides moisturization of the skin and hair by retaining sufficient moisture therein while giving the skin and hair a superior touch and feel. It is respectfully submitted that the newly cited reference does not disclose the presently claimed invention.

The Sunamoto et al reference discloses a polysaccharide-sterol derivative. Although the polysaccharide-cholesterol derivatives disclosed in this reference are stated as being used as coatings for lipid emulsions and as polymeric

surfactants used in the preparation of polysaccharide coating emulsions, the Examiner has taken the position that an emulsion containing glycerol tricaprylate, water and the cholesterol derivative fall within the scope of the present claims. In order to further distinguish the claimed invention over this reference, the currently presented claims now require that the cosmetic product comprises a solvent containing at least one of a volatile oil and a volatile organic solvent. By using the polysaccharide-cholesterol derivative of the present invention in combination with a volatile oil or with a solvent containing a volatile solvent, a coating film can be formed over the applied skin portion in a uniform and thin layer. After being coated, the volatile oil or solvent will volatilize to leave a thin uniform cosmetic film on the skin surface which does not have a sticky touch or feel and will not show any tendency to cause transcription onto a material brought into contact therewith. On the other hand, when a cosmetic product is prepared by simply blending ordinary cosmetic components with the polysaccharide-cholesterol derivative shown in Sunamoto et al, the resulting composition would have a sticky touch or feel since a volatile oil and/or volatile solvent are not provided therein. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the currently claimed invention clearly is patentably distinguishable over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the present application and the passing of it to issue is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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